

# MEMO

To: PlayStation 4 NPL NSW and State League Clubs  
From: Head of Competitions  
Date: 27 May 2016  
Subject: Physiotherapy/ Massage Benches



We write to provide clarification regarding Physiotherapy/Massage benches set up within the technical area and pitch perimeter fencing. There is a growing number of Clubs who are setting up its physio benches within the technical area to provide treatment to its players prior to and post the match that is being conducted.

Football NSW have reviewed the current trend of Physiotherapy/Massage benches within the technical area/pitch perimeter fencing and can confirm that there is to be **no physiotherapy/massage benches** positioned within the technical area or pitch perimeter fencing on match day.

The following concerns were identified:

- Exceeding the numbers on the bench or within the technical area
- Players undressing in front of spectators in particular in front of children
- Players not involved in the match or unidentified players entering and exiting the field of play, referees unable to identify the players
- Players (excludes substitutes) not involved in match walking through their opponent's technical area

Whilst we understand the challenges faced by Clubs in providing treatment to players prior to, during and post-match, we are unable to permit a practice that raises concerns around match official's management of their respective matches.

We suggest that the club could consider setting up a marquee/designated area outside the pitch perimeter fence that is designed especially for the physiotherapist to be able to treat and assist with the players preparing for next match while in clear view and easily accessible to the field of play if required. This may assist with challenges that have been raised regarding child protection for players under the age of 18 working individually between player and physiotherapist. It may also assist the common Club arrangement of having one (1) physiotherapist in attendance having to work within the change room without clear view of the field of play.

Your support working through this is matter would be greatly appreciated.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy McColl".

Troy McColl

Head of Competitions